

What is claimed is:

1. An airknife apparatus for directing a curtain of air comprising:
 - a housing having an air inlet,
 - a blower for supplying pressurized air into said housing through said inlet, said housing having a pair of elongated primary air discharge orifices through which pressurized air supplied to said housing is emitted in elongated air curtains,
 - a shroud for defining auxiliary air passages each communicating with a respective auxiliary air discharge orifice disposed in adjacent relation to one of said primary discharge orifices such that air discharging from each said primary discharge orifice creates a low pressure condition at the adjacent auxiliary air discharge orifice which draws air through the auxiliary passage and auxiliary discharge orifice augmenting the air flow emitted from the primary discharge orifice.
2. The airknife apparatus of claim 1 in which said primary discharge orifices direct air streams in opposite angled directions with respect to a vertical axis of the airknife.
3. The airknife apparatus of claim 2 in which said primary discharge orifices direct air streams at an angle of between about 20 and 100 degrees to each other.
4. The airknife apparatus of claim 1 in which said pair of primary discharge orifices are defined by an air diverter member disposed within an elongated outlet opening of said housing.
5. The airknife apparatus of claim 4 in which said air diverter member has upper surfaces angled with respect to each other, said angled surfaces each defining one side of one of said primary discharge orifices.
6. The airknife apparatus of claim 5 in which said angled surfaces of said air diverter member define an included angle of between about 20 and 100 degrees.
7. The airknife apparatus of claim 5 in which said angled surfaces of said air diverting member define an included angle of about 90 degrees.
8. The airknife apparatus of claim 5 in which said housing has lower oppositely angled terminal ends adjacent said angled surfaces of said air diverting member, said auxiliary air discharge orifices being defined by said angled terminal housing ends and said angled air diverting member surfaces.

9. The airknife apparatus of claim 8 in which said housing terminal ends are curved in opposite directions with respect to each other.

10. The airknife apparatus of claim 1 in which said shroud comprises a pair of wings, said wings each being mounted in spaced relation to a respective side of said housing for defining a respective auxiliary air passage adjacent a side of the housing.

11. The airknife apparatus of claim 10 in which said housing has a pair of upwardly and outwardly extending hooks, and said wings each have upwardly and outwardly curved proportions for releasable mounted engagement with said housing hooks.

12. The airknife apparatus of claim 1 in which said auxiliary air discharge orifices each has a width greater than the width of the adjacent primary air discharge orifice.

13. An airknife apparatus for directing a curtain of air comprising:

a housing having an air inlet,

a blower for supplying pressurized air into said housing through said inlet, said housing having a plurality of elongated primary air discharge orifices through which pressurized air supplied to said housing is emitted in elongated air curtains,

a shroud for defining a plurality of auxiliary air passages each communicating with a respective auxiliary air discharge orifice disposed in adjacent relation to one of said primary discharge orifices such that air discharging from said primary discharge orifices creates a low pressure condition at the adjacent auxiliary air discharge orifice which draws air through the auxiliary passage and auxiliary discharge orifice augmenting the air flow emitted from the primary discharge orifices.

14. The airknife apparatus of claim 13 in which said primary discharge orifices each direct an air stream at an angle to a vertical axis of the airknife.

15. The airknife apparatus of claim 13 in which said pair of primary discharge orifices are defined by an air diverter member disposed within an elongated outlet opening of said housing.

16. An airknife apparatus for directing a curtain of air comprising:

a housing having an air inlet,

a blower for supplying pressurized air into said housing through said inlet, said housing having at least one elongated primary air discharge orifice through which pressurized air supplied to said housing is emitted in an elongated air curtain,

a shroud for defining auxiliary air passages each communicating with a respective auxiliary air discharge orifice disposed adjacent said at least one primary discharge orifice such that air discharging from at least one primary discharge orifice creates a low pressure conditions at the auxiliary air discharge orifices which draw air through the auxiliary passages and auxiliary discharge orifices augmenting the air flow emitted from said at least one primary discharge orifice,

said housing having a pair of outwardly extending hooks,

said shroud comprising a pair of wings, said wings each being mounted in spaced relation to a respective side of said housing for defining a respective one of said auxiliary air passages adjacent a side of the housing, and said wings each having outwardly extended hook portions for releasable engagement with said housing hooks as an incident to mounting of said wings on said housing.